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REVOLUTIONARY COMMENTS

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ECHOES FROM THE HALL OF SHAME

By Todd Loren

All right, it's time to get down to the nitty gritty here. Why can't we do a book about Skid Row? Because if we did, I'd be violating a restraining order, and I'd be thrown in jail. That's right, folks, right here in America, the land of the free, the home of the brave, where hundreds of thousands daily risk their lives to uphold the principles of freedom upon which this country was founded, I am personally in danger of being thrown in jail for excercising my First Amendment right to publish a biography about a public figure. Why in the world did I ever sign such a restraining order? Ahhh, take your minds back, way back to 1989. Rock N' Roll Comics had just made a big splash on the comic scene. Our circulation was going through the roof, and we were well on our way to being the #1 best selling comic book ever. Then the bottom fell out. Kenneth Feinswog, a lawyer representing the Great Southern Company, blackmailed the biggest comic book distributors in America into dropping all of our books. It was made clear to me that the only way I could get my distribution back was to sign this restraining order, forbidding me from publishing any books about any Great Southern owned properties, and pay a large sum of money to Great Southern, plus I had to turn over about 15,000 unsold copies of Rock N' Roll Comics #4 (Motley Crue) to be destroyed by Great Southern.

Great Southern is one of three companies which monopolize the rock licensing industry. Number one is Winterland. They represent most of the CBS (Sony) groups. They are followed by Brockum, which represents the majority of heavy metal groups. Great Southern is a distant third. All three are also heavily involved in concert promotions. In fact, they are the top three concert promoters in the country, which explains why t-shirts at concerts cost so much. Three companies pretty much monopolize the entire industry, and they keep very close tabs on just how much product is available outside of concerts, so they can keep availability very limited, thus forcing fans to pay exhorbitant prices for t-shirts at concerts. In fact, for a long time it was the policy of Winterland to sell no shirts to any mail order companies. When "bootleg" shirts (many of which were better quality than Winterland's product) started popping up everywhere, they finally gave in and started reluctantly selling to mail-order companies.

So, I am not allowed to do any books or stories about any Great Southern groups. Motley Crue was with Great Southern, but then they changed to Brockum. That didn't stop Great Southern from confiscating and destroying 15,000 copies of RNR #4, first printing, even though they no longer had the license! They did it out of spite. One condition was included in the agreement. If any group felt strongly enough about Freedom Of Speech to let us excercise our First Amendment rights to do a book about them, they could step forward, and tell Great Southern to exempt them from the deal. So far not one Great Southern group has done this. In case you're wondering just WHO we're talking about, here they are. Some of them, such as Judas Priest, actually pretend to be pro-First Amendment advocates, preaching "no more censorship" while denying others their freedoms. Here it is, folks,

THE ROCK N' ROLL HALL OF SHAME,

THE GREAT SOUTHERN LINE-UP!

JUDAS PRIEST, SKID ROW, BON JOVI, IRON MAIDEN, SLAUGHTER, L.A. GUNS, DEPECHE MODE, THE CULT, DIO, FASTER PUSSYCAT, INXS, DEEP PURPLE, W.A.S.P., WINGER, ERASURE AND ROBERT PLANT.

If you want to know why we haven't done any books on the above groups, it's because none of them have had the courage to come forward and say "Great Southern is wrong, and we won't go along with this manipulation of the rights of our fans." Why not?

(Continued on inside back cover)

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ZZ TOP
JAY ALLEN SANFORD • WRITER
STUART IMMONEN • ARTIST
PATRICK WILLIAMS • LETTERER
TODD LOREN • EDITOR
THAT LITTLE OL' BAND FROM TEXAS
THIS IS AN UNAUTHORIZED BIOGRAPHY!
IN THE MID-1950'S, DEEP IN THE SUBURBS OF HOUSTON, TEXAS, THE GIBBONS FAMILY ENJOYS A PLACID SLICE OF AMERICAN PIE.
DAD, A NEW YORKER WHO MOVED SOUTH IN THE THIRTIES, IS NO COUNTRY HICK. HE'S DONE FILM SCORE ARRANGEMENTS IN HOLLYWOOD, AND IS A CLASSICAL PIANIST AND PART-TIME CONDUCTOR FOR THE HOUSTON PHILHARMONIC.
MOM'S NO SLOUCH, EITHER... SHE WILL SOON BE A SECRETARY TO PRESIDENT LBJ'S TEXAS STAFF.
BILLY GIBBONS, BORN ON DECEMBER 16TH 1949, IS WATCHING TV WITH HIS SISTER PAM ON THE DAY THAT ELVIS PRESLEY SWIVELS HIS WAY ONTO THE INTRUSIVE, INFLUENTIAL HOME SCREEN.
WOW! THAT'S THE JOB FOR ME!
THAT'S WHAT I'M GONNA BE DOIN' WHEN I GROW UP!
THE GIBBONS FAMILY MAID, STELLA MATTHEWS, TURNS HIM ON TO THE BLACK MUSIC FROM WHICH ROCK AND ROLL SPRANG, WHILE HER DAUGHTER, LITTLE STELLA, EXPOSES HIM TO ROBERT JOHNSON, B B KING, AND EVEN TAKES HIM TO SEE SOME OF THE ERA'S MOST FIERY CONCERT ATTRACTIONS.
SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF LITTLE RICHARD?
MIGHT FAHN! LOTTA BEAT, LOTTA SWEAT...
THAT'S GONNA BE ME, UP ON THAT STAGE SOMEDAY! YOU JUST WAIT!
AFTER HIS FOURTEENTH BIRTHDAY IN 1963, BILLY RECEIVES A GIBSON MELODY MAKER GUITAR AND A FENDER AMP FROM HIS PARENTS.
SO, FAR, THE FIRST SONGS I'VE LEARNED ARE "BIG BOSS MAN" AND "WHAT'D I SAY." I JES LOVE THE WAY THIS THING SOUNDS WHEN I PULL THE STRINGS AN' LET 'EM SNAP BACK AGAINST THE PICKUP!
HUS
SOUNDS EVEN BETTER WHEN I TURN THE VOLUME UP PAST "PATENT PENDING"!

BILLY'S NATURAL PROWESS ON THE SIX STRING MAKES HIM LEGENDARY ON THE HOUSTON BAND SCENE, EVEN WHILE HE'S STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL.
HE PLAYS IN A STRING OF LOCAL BOOGIE GROUPS, LIKE THE SAINTS, THE TEN BLUE FLAMES AND, FINALLY, THE COACHMEN.
ELSEWHERE, ANOTHER 17 YEAR-OLD, FRANK BEARD, IS LIVING A LIFE WHICH IS, *WELL*, NOT QUITE SO IDYLLIC, DUE TO CERTAIN SUBSTANCE AND JUDGEMENTAL IMPROPRIETIES.
I DUNNO. IT'S THE PILLS AND BOOZE, MAKES ME JUST NOT CARE WHAT I DO! IT'S WEIRD ENOUGH HAVIN' TO GET MARRIED IN HIGH SCHOOL, AND NOW SHE'S PREGNANT **AGAIN**!
WITH PROBLEMS LIKE THAT, WHO CARES ABOUT THE COACH WANTING TO KICK ME OFF THE TEAM? I WASN'T THAT GOOD A QUARTERBACK ANYWAY.
IRVING
THE ONLY TIME I FEEL LIKE I'M WHOLE IS WHEN I'M BEATING ON MY DRUMS!
I'M THINKING ABOUT JOINING THE SCHOOL BAND...
...IF THEY'LL HAVE ME, THAT IS.
FRANK WILL SOON END UP DIVORCED FROM HIS YOUNG BRIDE, AFTER FATHERING TWO CHILDREN WITH HER.
AT THE SAME TIME, OVER IN DALLAS, ANOTHER PRODIGIOUS TEEN, BASSIST DUSTY HILL, HAS TEAMED UP WITH HIS OLDER BROTHER ROCKY TO FORM A POPULAR LOCAL BLUES-BASHER BAND, THE DEADBEATS.
WELL, DUSTY, HOW DO YA LIKE HANGING OUT WITH ALL THESE GREAT GUITARISTS, LIKE FREDDIE KING AND THE GUYS?
I TELL YA, ROCKY, THIS IS THE ONLY LIFE FOR ME! EVER SINCE WE USED TO SNEAK INTO THOSE BLACK BLUES CLUBS, I KNEW I WAS GONNA BE A MUSICIAN.
I'M JUST GLAD MOM UNDERSTOOD AND HELPED US ALONG LIKE SHE DID.
YEAH, SHE'S PRETTY COOL, EVEN IF SHE **WAS** MORE INTO THAT KATE SMITH TYPE OF SINGING WHEN SHE WAS WITH THE BIG BAND.
HEY, SHE **DOES** DIG THE BEATLES ALMOST AS MUCH AS US!
I KNOW, AND SHE BOUGHT US OUR FIRST GUITARS.
Y'KNOW, I USED TO BE MAD THAT **YOU** GOT THE SIX-STRING AND I GOT THE BASS... I THOUGHT SHE DIDN'T KNOW THE DIFFERENCE. BUT NOW I THINK SHE REALLY KNEW WHAT SHE WAS DOING.
YOU WERE ALWAYS MORE INTO THE MELODY, --
--WHILE I "DUM-DUMMED" ALONG WITH THE BEAT.
IN 1966, BACK IN HOUSTON, 17 YEAR-OLD BILLY GIBBONS BUYS A RECORD BY A HOMEGROWN TEXAS BAND WHICH WILL BE KNOWN AS ONE OF AMERICA'S FIRST "PSYCHEDELIC" ACID GROUPS.
YOU GOTTA CHECK THIS OUT! IT'S CALLED *"YOU'RE GONNA MISS ME,"* AND IT'S BY THE THIRTEENTH FLOOR ELEVATORS! I SWEAR, THIS IS THE MOST **ELECTRIC** MUSIC I'VE EVER HEARD! THE GUITAR SOUNDS LIKE IT'S BEING FED THROUGH AN AMP FULLA BROKEN GLASS!
INSPIRED BY THIS BIT OF DISTORTED BUBBLE-GUM DEMENTIA, BILLY COMPOSES HIS OWN COLORFUL PAEAN, --
A SONG CALLED "99TH FLOOR," --
--DURING A PARTICULARLY BORING MATH CLASS.

BILLY LATER CONVINCES HIS DUBIOUS 3-MAN BAND, THE COACHMEN, OF THE SONG'S MERITS.
I TELL YA, EVEN IF WE HAVE TO PUT UP OUR OWN MONEY, WE SHOULD GET "99TH FLOOR" RECORDED AND GET A SINGLE OUT! THE TIME'S RIPE FOR THIS KINDA MUSIC... JUST PLAIN OL' BLUES ARE A DEAD END!
I DUNNO, BILLY. THE BASSLINE REMINDS ME OF "MONSTER MASH"! ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE SERIOUS HERE? I CAN NEVER TELL.
WE'VE NEVER PLAYED MUSIC LIKE THIS BEFORE, AND THE FOLKS WHO'RE ALREADY OUR FANS'LL HATE IT!
"99TH FLOOR" DOES GET RECORDED, THOUGH AT FIRST THE BAND SEES NO SALES RESULTING FROM THEIR PERSONAL INVESTMENT.
THE COACHMEN DECIDE TO CHANGE THEIR NAMES ALONG WITH THEIR SOUND, AND ARE NOW CALLED MOVING SIDEWALKS. THE GROUP IS SIGNED TO TANTARA RECORDS AND RELEASE A REGIONAL HIT LP "FLASH."
THE RE-RECORDED "99TH FLOOR" SINGLE SELLS WELL, AND THE STARSTRUCK TRIO FIND THEMSELVES OPENING FOR JIMI HENDRIX IN NEW YORK CITY!
MAN, OH MAN, THAT GIBBONS GUY CAN REALLY BURN UP THE STRINGS!
HE'S GOT "THE FEEL," THAT'S FOR SURE.
THINK I'LL TAKE HIM FOR A SPIN AFTER THE SHOW.
LATER...
YOU REALLY THINK WE'VE GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO MAKE THE BIG TIME?
WELL, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE OTHERS, BUT YOU'VE SURE GOT FIRE!
THE BEST THING YOU CAN DO, BROTHER, IS TURN IT UP AS LOUD AS IT'LL GO!
SOMEBODY'S GONNA NOTICE YOU!
1968
MEANWHILE, DUSTY AND ROCKY HILL ARE EXPERIENCING A SIMILAR CHANGE OF MUSICAL DIRECTION WITH THEIR OWN BAND, NOW KNOWN AS THE WARLOCKS.
THIS IS NOWHERESVILLE, DUSTY. DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT THIS NEW GUITAR-BOOGIE IS GONNA TAKE US ANYWHERE? I MISS THE OLD SONGS.
LISTEN, WE'VE GOT SINGLES OUT NOW, RIGHT? I KNOW THAT PARADISE AND ARA ARE SMALL LABELS,--
BUT NOBODY PAID ATTENTION TO US WHEN ALL WE PLAYED WAS STANDARDS.
THE WARLOCKS CHANGE THEIR NAME ONCE AGAIN, THIS TIME TO AMERICAN BLUES, AND PUT OUT TWO POOR-SELLING LOCAL ALBUMS. IN LATE 1968, THEIR DRUMMER QUITS AND THE HILL BROTHERS SEARCH FOR A SUITABLE REPLACEMENT.
MY NAME'S FRANK. FRANK BEARD. I HEAR YOU GUYS ARE LOOKING FOR A DRUMMER.
I'M DUSTY HILL, AND THIS IS MY BROTHER ROCKY. IF YOU'RE INTO STOMPIN', ROMPIN' ELECTRIC BLUES, AND IF YOU LIKE THE DEAD AND THE AIRPLANE, BRING IN YOUR KIT AND LET'S JAM!
FRANK BEARD PASSES MUSTER, AND SOON BECOMES TIGHT WITH DUSTY. IN FACT, THE TWO OF THEM (IN AN ATTEMPT TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THEIR INCREASINGLY OUTRAGEOUS BAND) DYE THEIR HAIR BLUE TOGETHER (SHADES OF THE FAR-OFF PUNK ERA.

GIBBONS' MOVING SIDEWALKS ARE CREATING QUITE A BUZZ WHEREVER THEY PLAY, WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM THEIR NEWEST FAN.
HERE YOU GO, BILLY. THIS IS FOR YOU.
IT'S ONE OF MY FAVORITE LADIES, SO YOU TAKE CARE OF HER!
NO PLAYING IT WITH THAT DAMNED 25 CENT PIECE YOU USE FOR A PICK!
WOW!!! A PINK STRATOCASTER! I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY!
HENDRIX SINGS BILLY'S PRAISES AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY. ON THE TONIGHT SHOW...
SO, WHAT KIND OF MUSIC DO YOU LISTEN TO? BACH? MYRON FLOREN? LAWRENCE WELK?
WELL, JOHNNY, THERE'S THIS DUDE NAMED BILLY GIBBONS, WITH MOVING SIDEWALKS.
HE'S GOT TO BE THE MOST PROMISING GUITARIST I'VE SEEN IN THIS COUNTRY.
IN 1969, RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR AN ORGANIZED APPROACH, BILLY APPROACHES A LOCAL MANAGER/PRODUCER, TALL TEXAN BILL HAM, IN AN ATTEMPT TO PROFESSIONALIZE AND PROMOTE HIS FLEDGLING CAREER.
WHAT I'D LIKE, MR. HAM, IS FOR YOU TO KIND OF GUIDE ME AND HELP ME GET BOOKINGS. AND MAYBE PRODUCE THE RECORDS.
I'M NOT MUCH FOR THE BUSINESS SIDE OF THINGS, BUT I WANNA CAPITALIZE ON THE PROGRESS I'VE MADE SO FAR.
WELL, WHAT'S THE STATUS OF MOVING SIDEWALKS? ARE YOU STILL UNDER CONTRACT TO TANTARA?
WELL, WE'VE LOST A COUPLA GUYS TO THE DRAFT, SO WE'RE BASICALLY SPLIT UP.
I'M ITCHIN' TO FORM A NEW GROUP, ANYWAY. GET BACK TO A LITTLE MORE BLUESY SOUND, LIKE BB KING.
IN FACT, I'VE ALREADY GOT A NAME THAT RINGS A LITTLE BIT LIKE BB'S... "ZZ TOP."
HAM AGREES TO MANAGE THE NEW BAND'S DIRECTION, AS THE REMAINING SIDEWALKS (ALONG WITH KEYBOARDIST BILLY ETHERIDGE) RECORD A SINGLE CALLED "SALT LICK" ON THE SMALL "SCAT" LABEL. THE PROTOTYPICAL ZZ TOP EXPERIENCES MODERATE SALES.
HEY, DARLIN', YOU WANNA AUTOGRAPHED COPY OF MAH NEW HIT SINGLE?
MAYBE WE CAN GO HANG OUT WITH MY FRIEND, JIMI HENDRIX.
YEAH, SURE, AS SOON AS I GET RID OF MY DATE, ELVIS PRESLEY! GET LOST, HAIRBALL!

AS GIBBONS STRUGGLES TO ESTABLISH ZZ TOP, THE BAND AMERICAN BLUES HAS SPLIT UP. ZZ's BILLY ETHERIDGE INTRODUCES THEIR NOW UNEMPLOYED DRUMMER, FRANK BEARD, TO GIBBONS.
HOW YA DOIN', MAN? I HEAR TELL YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A STEADY GIG. WELL, ZZ's PARED DOWN TO JUST ME, BILL ETHERIDGE AND OUR MANAGER, SO WE'RE LOOKING FOR A DRUMMER AND A BASSIST WHO'RE READY FOR SOME ROCKIN'!
WELL, MR. GIBBONS, I REMEMBER YOUR "MOVING SIDEWALKS" ALBUM AND THAT STUFF'S RIGHT UP MY ALLEY.
IF YOUR NEW BAND IS GONNA BE THAT SAME TYPE OF THING, I'M YOUR MAN!
ETHERIDGE SOON SPLITS FOR WHAT HE PERCEIVES TO BE GREENER PASTURES, AS BILLY AND FRANK HOLD AUDITIONS FOR A BASSIST OVER THE NEXT SIX MONTHS. FINALLY, IN FEBRUARY 1978, FRANK BRINGS IN OLD AMERICAN BLUES BANDMATE, DUSTY HILL!
MAN, MAXIMUM OUTPUT! WHAT A GREAT JAM! WE'VE BEEN DOING THAT BLUES SHUFFLE IN C FOR OVER AN HOUR, AND WE WERE SMOKIN'!
I THINK WE'VE FOUND OUR BASS PLAYER!
THANKS, BILLY! HEY, YOU GUYS KNOW "ROCK ME BABY"?
WITH ITS DEFINITIVE LINEUP FINALIZED, ZZ TOP EMBARKS ON A SERIES OF ENTRY-LEVEL CLUB DATES. AUDIENCES ARE SOMEWHAT UNENTHUSED, AND THE GROUP SOON FINDS ITSELF AS A PICKUP BAND, PLAYING BEHIND NONE OTHER THAN CHUCK BERRY.
THIS IS THE CHUCK BERRY?! HE PLAYS LIKE HE'S SLEEPWALKIN', AND THAT OL' GREEN SUIT OF HIS IS SO SMELLY I HAVE TO BREATHE THROUGH MY MOUTH WHENEVER HE COMES NEAR ME!
AS BILLY TEARS OUT SOME WICKED SLIDE GUITAR, THE GRANDDADDY OF ROCK WALKS OVER TO HIM IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SONG TO OFFER SOME UNEXPECTED SAGE ADVICE.
HEY, MOUNTAIN MAN, PLEASE DON'T DO THAT! YOU'RE MAKING TOO DAMN MUCH NOISE!
IN 1970, AS JOHNNY WINTER BRINGS TEXAN ROCK TO THE FOREFRONT OF THE NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS, ZZ MANAGER BILL HAM IS SCHEMING TO GET HIS SOUTHERN-FRIED GROUP SOME WIDESPREAD EXPOSURE.
LOOK, BILLY HAS A REP FROM THE OLD "MOVING SIDEWALKS" DAYS, THANKS TO HENDRIX, AND YOU TWO GUYS SOLD SOME ALBUMS WITH "AMERICAN BLUES."
NOW WHAT I'M SAYING IS, MAYBE YOU AREN'T A SUPERGROUP, BUT THE COMBINATION OF YOUR TALENTS DESERVES A LOT MORE ATTENTION THAN SCAT RECORDS CAN OFFER.
THAT'S WHY I'VE WORKED OUT A LIMITED ARRANGEMENT WITH LONDON RECORDS...THEY'VE OFFERED A "UNITED STATES-ONLY" CONTRACT, WITH SIX MONTHS OF REGIONAL PROMOTION!
IT'S NOT A BIG COMMITMENT ON THEIR PART, BUT IT GETS YOUR FOOT IN THE DOOR, BOYS!
RIGHT ON!
WE'D BETTER DAZZLE 'EM OVER THESE NEXT SIX MONTHS!

AND "DAZZLE" IS WHAT THEY DO, AS THEY ENTER THE STUDIO TO RECORD THEIR FIRST FOOT-STOMPING KEG PARTY SOUNDTRACK, "ZZ TOP'S FIRST ALBUM."
CHECK THESE GUYS OUT! THEY'RE DRESSED LIKE COWBOYS ON ACID!
YEAH, BUT THE COOL THING IS, THEY PLAY LIKE THAT, TOO!
IN JANUARY 1971, THE ALBUM IS RELEASED TO FAIR REVIEWS. BUT IN THE SOUTH, PARTICULARLY IN LOUISIANA, MISSISSIPPI AND TEXAS, THE GROUP IS ON THE "A" LIST, AS THEY PLAY BACKUP FOR GROUPS LIKE DEEP PURPLE, MOTT THE HOOPLE, TEN YEARS AFTER, JANIS JOPLIN AND THE DOORS.
SO THESE ARE THE MIGHTY DOORS, HUH?
I'M NOT IMPRESSED. HOW 'BOUT YOU, FRANK?
NAH, YOU CAN TELL THEY'RE ON THEIR LAST LEGS. BILL HAM'S PRETTY SHREWD THAT WAY, WITH THE GROUPS HE PICKS FOR US TO PLAY WITH.
YEAH, LIKE WITH MOTT THE HOOPLE. THEY'RE ON THE BREAKUP TRAIL, LOST ALL THEIR FIRE. SO WE SHOW NO MERCY AND BLOW 'EM OFF THE STAGE!
SOMETIMES WE REALLY PISS 'EM OFF BY DOIN' A HALF DOZEN ENCORES!
THE STRATEGY'S WORKIN',--
--BUT WE STILL HAD TO PLAY A COUPLA HUNDRED GIGS OVER THE YEAR, FROM HIGH SCHOOLS IN AUSTIN TO THIS!
WHEN'S THE HIGH ROLLIN' GONNA START? I WANNA MAXIMIZE!
LONDON RENEWS THEIR OPTION AND, AFTER A YEAR OF INTENSIVE TOURING, ZZ RETURNS TO THE STUDIO IN JANUARY 1972 TO WORK ON THEIR SECOND LP.
FRANK, IT'S A SHAME YOU SING LIKE A WOUNDED COYOTE! YOU'VE BEEN COMIN' UP WITH SOME MIGHT FAHN LYRICS THIS GO-AROUND.
THANKS, DUSTY... I THINK. I DON'T MIND YOU SINGING THE SONGS.
HAH! DUSTY GROWLS LIKE A STOMACH FULLA CHILI!
HIS VOICE MAKES ZZ TOP SOUND LIKE FOUR FLAT TIRES ON A MUDDY TEXAS ROAD!
THAT'D BE A GOOD NAME FOR THE NEW ALBUM! "TEXAS MUD!" OR, BETTER YET, TO GIVE IT AN EVEN MORE SOUTHWESTERN SPICE, "RIO GRANDE MUD!"
THE SECOND ALBUM COMES OUT IN APRIL '72 AND BARELY HITS THE TOP 100 (THOUGH IT WILL EVENTUALLY, AFTER A LONG RUN, GO GOLD), AS ZZ LANDS A COVETED SPOT OPENING FOR THE LEGENDARY ROLLING STONES.
HEYA, MR. MICK, WE'RE GONNA BE NICE TO YOU GUYS AND NOT BLOW YOU OFF THE STAGE... 'CAUSE WE LIKE YOU BOYS! YER OKAY!
UH, THANKS, I'M SURE.
UM... WHO DID YOU SAY YOU WERE AGAIN?

IN JULY, THE "FRANCENE" SINGLE EDGES UP TO #69.
WELL, DUSTY, WE'VE FINALLY GOT A FEW SILVER DOLLARS JANGLING IN OUR POCKETS, EVEN IF WE'RE NOT ON THE COVER OF ROLLING STONE, YET.
YEP. AN' IT AIN'T FROM A LACK OF WORKIN' HARD! THIS IS THE FIRST SOLID WEEK I'VE BEEN AT HOME TO WORK ON MY AXE ALL YEAR! THE WHOLE ROAD GRIND STARTS AGAIN NEXT MONTH WITH THE DALLAS MEMORIAL COLISEUM SHOW.
AND THEN IT'S BACK TO THE STUDIO SO LONDON CAN GET A THIRD ALBUM OUTTA US!
ONE THING ABOUT ALL THESE BUS TRIPS, I'M GETTIN' REAL GOOD AT MY HARP PLAYIN'! IT'S ABOUT ALL THERE IS TO DO, BETWEEN GIGS.
SOMEDAY, BILLY, THE THREE OF US ARE GONNA BE SHUTTLED FROM SHOW TO SHOW IN LIMOS AND JET PLANES. YOU JUST WAIT AND SEE. PEOPLE ARE GONNA START PAYIN' ATTENTION TO US!
I DON'T KNOW.
SEEMS LIKE, AT LEAST TO THE CRITICS, WE'LL NEVER BE ANYTHING MORE THAN THREE DUSTY OLD COWBOYS...
..."TRES HOMBRES."
FOR THE SONG "LA GRANGE", DUSTY DOES A BIT OF RESEARCH BY VISITING THE SONG'S SUBJECT, THE FAMOUS TEXAS WHOREHOUSE.
WELL, HEY THERE COWBOY.
ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR YOU'RE LOOKING FOR, TODAY?
HONEY, ROUND UP THREE OR FOUR SPUNKY FILLIES AN' PUT 'EM IN SOME SKIMPY LITTLE NUTHINS, AN' I'LL TAKE 'EM FOR A SPIN AROUND THE CORRAL THAT'LL LEAVE THEIR PURTY LITTLE LEGS WOBBLIN' INTO NEXT WEEK!
SOUNDS LIKE YOU'VE GOT A MIGHTY BIG APPETITE THERE!
LOOKS LIKE YOU DO TOO, BIG MAMA!
"LA GRANGE" IS DESTINED TO PEAK AT #41. DUSTY LATER REPORTS "THAT MADAME DIDN'T LOOK NUTHIN' LIKE DOLLY PARTON!"
THE THIRD ALBUM, "TRES HOMBRES," IS OUT IN JULY 1973, AS THE GROUP HITS THE ROAD PLAYING AN ECLECTIC BILL WITH SHOCK-ROCKER ALICE COOPER.
AT A SOUNDCHECK IN FLORENCE, ALABAMA...
SING SOMETHING GRITTY, DUSTY, SO I CAN TEST THE P.A.'S VIBRATO.
SING THAT OLD ROY HEAD SONG, "TUSH HOG."
NAH, I'LL WING A NEW ONE. HERE'S A BASSLINE... FOLLOW MY LEAD.
"I BEEN UP, I BEEN DOWN, TAKE MY WORD, BEEN AROUND! I AIN'T ASKIN' FOR MUCH. I SAID, LORD, TAKE ME DOWNTOWN,--
I'M JUST LOOKING FOR SOME TUSH!"
THE EARLY VERSION OF THE FUTURE CLASSIC TAKES ALL OF TEN MINUTES TO COMPOSE!
IN LATE '73, THE GROUP HAS CAUSE TO CELEBRATE. NOT ONLY IS "LA GRANGE" A HIT, BUT THE ALBUM IS CERTIFIED GOLD!
WHOOPEE!! THE RECORD'S AT #8!
ALL RIIIGHT!

IN EARLY 1974, THE BAND IS IN THE STUDIO RECORDING SONGS FOR THEIR FOURTH ALBUM, "FANDANGO."
WE'VE GOT SOME PRETTY DIFFERENT SONGS FOR THIS ONE. "MEXICAN BLACKBIRD," "HEARD IT ON THE X"... I HOPE OUR FANS ARE READY FOR IT!
I'LL BET "TUSH" BECOMES THE HOE-DOWN HIT OF THE YEAR!
MAYBE WE OUGHTTA PUT DOWN SOME LIVE TRACKS! THAT'S WHERE WE REALLY COOK UP THE MIX,--
--AND LIVE ALBUMS ARE BIG THIS YEAR!
WHICH THEY DO, AS "FANDANGO" FEATURES CUTS RECORDED IN CONCERT (WITH NO OVERDUBS) AT THE WAREHOUSE IN NEW ORLEANS, WITH NEW STUDIO TRACKS FILLING OUT SIDE TWO.
THEIR SUCCESS MAKES THEM THE SUMMER'S TOP CONCERT DRAW! IN JULY 1974, THEY PLAY BEFORE 80,000 FANS AT THE TEXAS MEMORIAL STADIUM IN AUSTIN, AT "ZZ TOP'S FIRST ANNUAL TEXAS SIZE ROMPIN' STOMPIN' BARNDANCE AND BAR B. Q.," ALONG WITH BAD COMPANY, JOE COCKER AND SANTANA.
"FANDANGO" SHOOTS UP TO #10 STATESIDE, AND EVEN BECOMES THEIR FIRST U.K. HIT AS IT HITS #60 IN BRITAIN!
ZZ TOP
Fandango!
THE RECORD STAYS ON THE CHARTS OVER 80 WEEKS! MOREOVER, THE GROUP IS FINALLY GETTING SOME OF THE POSITIVE PRESS THEY'VE BEEN CRAVING.
IT SAYS HERE THAT WE'VE SOLD MORE TICKETS IN NASHVILLE THAN ELVIS PRESLEY, AND MORE THAN LED ZEPPELIN IN NEW ORLEANS! WE'RE BREAKIN' RECORDS ALL OVER!
YEAH, AND MY BOOTY SALUTIE, "TUSH," JUST WENT TO #20! WE'RE FINALLY RIDIN' THE GRAVY TRAIN, PARDNERS.
NOT BAD FOR A BUNCHA MANGY MUTTS, HUH?

IN 1976, THE GROUP PREPARES TO EMBARK ON "ZZ TOP'S WORLDWIDE TEXAS TOUR."
HERE'S THE STAGE SET-UP. IT'LL BE SHAPED LIKE TEXAS.
WE'LL HAVE TUMBLEWEEDS ON STAGE, CACTUS, A CORRAL...
WHAT'S THAT?
THAT'S A LONGHORN STEER! WE'RE BRINGIN' ALONG AN ANIMAL TRAINER TO TAKE CARE OF HIM, THE FOUR LIVE BUZZARDS, THE RATTLESNAKES, BUFFALO, COYOTES...
THE BAND FINALLY, WISELY, OPTS FOR SOME STUFFED CRITTERS, THOUGH ACCOUTREMENTS LIKE LIVE BUZZARDS AND 25 TONS OF EQUIPMENT REMAIN.
THE GAUDY EXTRAVAGANZA, WHICH PLOWS THROUGH THE U.S., EUROPE, JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA, GROSSES OVER TEN MILLION DOLLARS. AUDIENCES ARE ASTOUNDED AT THE BUZZARDS TIED TO THE DRUMS, AND THE CATTLE THAT ARISE FROM THE STAGE ON HYDRAULIC LIFTS.
OH, YEAH, THE MUSIC'S PRETTY HOT, TOO!
IN NOVEMBER 1976, THE SINGLE "IT'S ONLY LOVE" REACHES #44, WHILE "FANDANGO" AND "TRES HOMBRES" ARE CERTIFIED PLATINUM!
I WANT TO THANK ALL THE "LITTLE PEOPLE" WHO MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO HAVE SOMETHING TO HANG ON MY WALL BESIDES THOSE DAMN VELVET "ELVIS" PAINTINGS!
AS THE BAND ENTERS ROBIN HOOD BRYANT STUDIOS, IN TYLER TEXAS, TO RECORD THEIR FIFTH ALBUM FOR LONDON, "TEJAS," THERE IS SOME DISSENTION IN THE ZZ CAMP.
GUYS, DO YOU REALIZE THAT, EXCEPT FOR OCCASIONAL BREAKS TO RECORD,--
--WE'VE BEEN ON THE ROAD NON-STOP FOR OVER SIX YEARS?!
YEAH, THIS LAST YEAR I'VE REALLY FELT LIKE I'VE BEEN WRUNG THROUGH A MEAT GRINDER! I FORGOT MY HOME ADDRESS!
HOW 'BOUT YOU, BILLY?

WAAAL... ONCE THIS ALBUM COMES OUT, Y'KNOW, OUR CONTRACT WITH LONDON WILL JUST ABOUT BE FINISHED. AND BILL HAM HAS BEEN FILLIN' ME IN ON SOME OF THE PROBLEMS HE'S BEEN HAVING GETTIN' OUR ROYALTIES, AND WITH RENEGOTIATIONS.
OH, YEAH? LIKE WHAT?
THEY'RE HAVING SERIOUS FINANCIAL PROBLEMS IN THEIR U.S. DIVISION... MIS-MANAGEMENT, PROBABLY, BUT WHO KNOWS?
ANYWAY, WE'RE THEIR CASH COW AN' THEY WANT US IN THE STUDIO AGAIN AS SOON AS WE SIGN ON FOR FIVE MORE ALBUMS.
SOUNDS LIKE BEIN' RAILROADED INTO A SHOTGUN MARRIAGE, AND YOU GUYS KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT THAT!
I'VE BEEN DIVORCED TWICE, NOW!
MAYBE IT'S TIME WE TALKED ABOUT GETTING A "DIVORCE" FROM LONDON!
INDEED, AS "TEJAS" SMACKS THE RACKS IN THE BEGINNING OF 1977 (PREDICTABLY REACHING #17 STATESIDE), THE GROUP ANNOUNCES THEIR INTENTION TO TAKE A WELL-DESERVED VACATION.
DUSTY GOES ON A PACIFIC SAILING EXPEDITION.
JUST SIT RIGHT BACK AND YOU'LL HEAR A TALE,...
...A TALE OF A FATEFUL TRIP THAT STARTED FROM THIS TROPIC PORT...
FRANK TRAVELS TO THE CARIBBEAN, AS WELL AS PICKING UP A SERIOUS JONES FOR GAMBLING AND GOLF.
"FORE", YOU MUTHAS!
BILLY MAKES THE MOST OF HIS TIME OFF BY READING UP ON HIS IDOL, ECCENTRIC RECLUSE HOWARD HUGHES, AND TRAVELING TO EUROPE, MOROCCO, MADAGASCAR AND NEPAL (AS WELL AS JOINING AN ARTIST'S COLLECTIVE IN PARIS).
EVERYBODY WOULD BE A LITTLE ECCENTRIC IF THEY COULD AFFORD TO PAY FOR IT!
THE VACATION STRETCHES OVER TWO YEARS, AS MANAGER BILL HAM APPROACHES NEW LABELS WITH HIS GOLDEN GEESE, ALL THE WHILE HAMMERING OUT FINAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH LONDON RECORDS.
LONDON RECORDS
FINE!
RELEASE A "BEST OF" COMPILATION, IF THAT'LL SATISFY THE TERMS OF THE CONTRACT!
BUT WE DON'T HAVE TO LIKE IT, AND WE CERTAINLY WON'T PRO-MOTE IT OR TOUR BEHIND IT! AND ONCE WE'RE OUT FROM UNDER YOUR THUMB, IF YOU DON'T PAY ALL BACK-ROYALTIES, THE PUB-LISHING RIGHTS TO ALL SIX ALBUMS WILL BE OURS TO RE-SELL!
NOW, BILL, I'M SURE THAT WE CAN WORK OUT AN EQUITABLE ARRANGEMENT...

THE "BEST OF ZZ TOP" IS THEIR SWAN SONG ON LONDON, AND THE ALBUM SELLS ONLY MODERATELY WELL (MUCH TO THE BOYS' AMUSEMENT).
WHEN THE THREE RE-UNITE IN THE SUMMER OF '79, BILLY AND DUSTY (WHO NEVER **DID** PAY MUCH ATTENTION TO THOSE "BURMA SHAVE" SIGNS THAT PLASTER THE SOUTHERN HIGHWAYS) NOW LOOK LIKE THE GUYS FROM THE SMITH BROTHER'S COUGH DROP BOX! FRANK BEARD IS NOW THE ONLY **UNBEARDED** TOPPER!
BY THE FALL, THE GROUP HAS SIGNED AN EXCLUSIVE, LUCRATIVE DEAL WITH THE HUGE CONGLOMERATE, WARNER BROS.
Warner Bros. CONTRACT
WHY DO I FEEL LIKE A CHARACTER FROM "FAUST"?
SO, WHAT'S GONNA BE OUR NEXT MOVE, MANAGER-MAN?
WELL, PART OF THE DEAL IS THAT WARNER BROTHERS IS RE-RELEASING ALL THE OLD ALBUMS.
THAT'LL GIVE US SOME CHART PRESENCE WHILE WE WORK UP A NEW ONE. THEY GAVE US OUR CHOICE OF STUDIOS.
WELL, YOU KNOW HOW WE USED TO DO OUR MIXIN' AT ARDENT STUDIOS, IN MEMPHIS? WE SHOULD TRY RECORDING UP THERE... LOTTA **FAHN** LOOKIN' LADIES THERABOUTS!
YEAH, YOU'VE TAPPED OUT THE **LOCAL** MARKET. UP THERE, THEY DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOUR HAIR TRIGGER!
THAT'S FUNNY, COMIN' FROM A GUY THE GALS CALL "PINPRICK"!
IN NOVEMBER 1979, ZZ TOP IS BACK ON THE SCENE WITH THEIR NEW ALBUM, WHICH HITS #24, AS THE BAND RECEIVES THEIR BIGGEST ROYALTY CHECKS YET.
DEGUELLO
THE RECORD FEATURES A FULLER SOUND, WITH HILL AND GIBBONS LAYING IN SOME HORNS AND MULTIPLE-TRACK GUITARS THE SUPPORTING TOUR IS ANOTHER FEATHER IN THEIR PINK BASEBALL CAPS. EVERYONE CELEBRATES THE RETURN OF "THAT LITTLE OL' BAND FROM TEXAS."
PEOPLE TOLD US WE'D NEVER GET OUR MOMENTUM BACK, BUT I THINK WE'RE DOIN' OKAY! I JUST GOT A CHRISTMAS CARD FROM THE IRS THANKIN' ME FOR KEEPIN' THE GOVERNMENT IN THE BLACK THIS YEAR!
ZZ TOP

AS THE "I THANK YOU" SINGLE CHECKS IN AT #34, IN APRIL 1980, ZZ GOES BACK TO MEMPHIS TO RECORD THEIR EIGHTH ALBUM, "EL LOCO." TECHNOLOGY HAS TRULY CAUGHT UP TO THE DUSTY COWBOYS, AS THEY RECORD IN SEPARATE BOOTHS AND SPEND MONTHS POLISHING THE PRODUCT WITH MUCHO HEAVY OVERDUBBING.
THE "CHEAP SUNGLASSES" SINGLE GETS THEM YET MORE AIRPLAY, WHILE "EL LOCO" IS FINALLY RELEASED IN AUGUST '81. THE ALBUM MAKES #17 IN AMERICA AND # 88 IN BRITAIN.
IN THE FALL, ANTIQUE CAR NUT BILLY (ALREADY CONSIDERED "ECCENTRIC" FROM HIS HABIT OF WEARING THE PRICE TAGS ON HIS CLOTHES UNTIL THEY FALL OFF) FINDS HIMSELF SHOPPING IN AN OUT-OF-THE-WAY JUNKYARD.
HEY, JESSE, THAT OL' HEAP OVER THERE LOOKS LIKE A 1933 FORD COUPE!
Y'KNOW, I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO CUSTOMIZE AN OLD 3-WINDOW CLASSIC LIKE THAT, BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO MUTILATE THE BEAUTIES I'VE SEEN. THIS BABY'S JUST A SHELL, A VIRGIN ALL WAITIN' TO BE GUSSIED AND CHERRIED UP!
BILLY SPENDS A SMALL FORTUNE AT BUFFALO MOTOR CARS OF PARAMOUNT CALIFORNIA, AND THE RESULTANT PRODUCT INSPIRES HIM TO NAME THE SUPERCAR...
THE ELIMINATOR
AND JUST TO PROVE HIS PLAYFUL IMPULSIVENESS, PRACTICAL-JOKER BILLY STAMPS 2000 POSTCARDS WITH DUSTY'S NAME AND ADDRESS AND SENDS THEM IN AS RESPONSES TO ADS IN BIKER MAGAZINES.
WELL, I GOTTA ADMIT, THIS IS SOME OF THE BEST READIN' I EVER SEEN!
A SUPER-MARKET OF SLEAZE!
THAT BILLY'S ONE OKAY DUDE...

IN JANUARY 1982, THEY RETURN TO THE FAMILIAR CONFINES OF THE STUDIO (THIS TIME IN TYLER TEXAS) TO BEGIN WORK ON THE DEFINITIVE SPIN-OF-THE-TOP, "ELIMINATOR." THE SCENE IS MUCH LIKE THE OLD DAYS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE NEWLY-ADDED BANKS OF SYNTHESIZERS AND ELECTRONIC GADGETS.
WELL, IT'S GOOD TO ALL BE PLAYIN' IN THE SAME ROOM AGAIN! SEEMS LIKE I'VE HARDLY SEEN YOU BOYS LATELY!
WELL, BILLY, THAT'S CAUSE YOU'VE BEEN RACIN' ALL OVER THE COUNTRYSIDE IN THAT MONSTER CAR OF YOURS,--
--AND BUYIN' UP HOUSES AND REAL ESTATE IN SANTA FE, SOUTHE PADRE ISLAND AND MOAB UTAH!
MONTHS LATER, THE GROUP, ALONG WITH FAVORED PRODUCER/MANAGER BILL HAM, IS STILL SLAVING AWAY ON THE MULTI-LAYERED, TECHNOLOGY-HEAVY DISC.
THIS STUFF IS SO... EIGHTIES! YOU GUYS EVER THINK ABOUT JOINING THE NEW MTV REVOLUTION AND MAKING SOME VIDEOS TO GO ALONG WITH THESE SONGS?
I DON'T KNOW, BILL. WE'RE NOT EXACTLY DURAN DURAN.
YEAH, OUR VISUAL IMAGE IS MORE LIKE A YIDDISH BARMITZVA!
"ELIMINATOR" IS OUT IN APRIL 1983, AND IN NO TIME IT'S AT #9 IN AMERICA AND #3 IN ENGLAND! THE DISC EVENTUALLY REACHES MULTI-PLATINUM STATUS, SPENDING 135 WEEKS ON THE CHARTS AND SELLING OVER FOUR MILLION COPIES!
ZZ TOP
WEEK 7 NUMBER 9
NOUVEAU RICHE DUSTY TAKES THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET MARRIED.
Rock Star Wedd
USTY HILL
NOW THAT THE PRESS AND PUBLIC HAVE OFFICIALLY DECLARED ZZ "HIP", THE GROUP DECIDES THAT THE TIME IS RIPE, AFTER ALL, TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MTV'S NEWLY-ACQUIRED PRESTIGE AND CLOUT.
YOU GUYS ARE GONNA BE TV STARS!
I JUST HOPE ALL THE EXTRA WORK HELPS US MOVE A FEW MORE ALBUMS.
THAT IS THE ONLY REASON VIDEOS EXIST, ISN'T IT?

IN MAY 1983, MTV PREMIERES THE TIM NEWMAN-DIRECTED "GIMME ALL YOUR LOVIN'" VIDEO. STOCKINGS, ZZ KEYCHAINS, BABES, BEARDS... OF SUCH STUFF ARE MODERN VIDEO LEGENDS MADE.
IN AUGUST, "SHARP DRESSED MAN" HITS THE HOME SCREEN, AS THE ELIMINATOR CAR BECOMES THE BAND'S MOST RECOGNIZABLE SYMBOL.
"BLACK SHADES, WHITE GLOVES, LOOKIN' SHARP, LOOKIN' FOR LOVE..."
THE ADDED EXPOSURE BOOSTS RECORD SALES INTO THE STRATOSPHERE.
THE "GIMME" SINGLE IS IN THE TOP FORTY NOW...
YEAH, AND "SHARP DRESSED MAN" IS RIGHT BEHIND IT! YOU READY FOR THE NEXT BIG TOUR?
READY?! I'M LIVIN' FOR IT! WE'RE GONNA HAVE FLAMES, SMOKE, HYDRAULICS... WE'RE TAKIN' SAMMY HAGAR WITH US AS BACKUP,--
--AND WE'RE GONNA JET AND LIMO ALL OVER THE WORLD!
JETS AND LIMOS? WE GOTTA REMEMBER, TOURS ARE SUPPOSED TO SELL RECORDS. WE CAN'T BE TOO EXTRAVAGANT... WARNER BROTHERS WILL FREAK OUT!
AFTER TOURING WITH BUZZARDS AND BISON, YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT "EXTRAVAGANT"?!
I JES' WANNA HAVE FUN--
--AND MAKE IT A SHOW THE FANS ARE WILLIN' TO PAY TWELVE BUCKS FOR.
YEAH, THAT'S WHAT PINK FLOYD SAID BEFORE LOSING THREE MILLION DOLLARS PERFORMING "THE WALL."

SPEAKING OF THE PINK ONES, BILLY HAPPENS TO MEET LEAD PINKSTER ROGER WATERS BACKSTAGE AT LONDON'S WEMBLEY ARENA.
HOW'RE YOU DOIN', ROGER? I GOTTA TELL YOU, I LOVE YOUR LEAD GUITAR PLAYIN'. YOU'RE ONE OF MY IDOLS!
I LOVE THAT BITING, BLUESY SOUND.
UH, THANKS, BUT I PLAY THE BASS.
LISTEN, IF YOU'RE INTO THE BLUES, YOU'VE GOT TO HEAR SOME OF THE TRACKS I'M PUTTING TOGETHER WITH ERIC CLAPTON!
WHY DON'T YOU COME OVER TO MY HOUSE LATER AND LET ME KNOW WHAT YOU THINK?
LATER...
MAN, THAT WAS CLAPTON?! AND TO THINK HE QUIT THE YARDBIRDS OVER "ARTISTIC INTEGRITY" WHEN HE WANTED TO PLAY "AUTHENTIC" BLUES!
THIS STUFF YOU'RE DOIN' WITH HIM SOUNDS LIKE PINK FLOYD ON MARS, TAKING THE BLUES BACK TO 1950's SCI-FI!
AT A CEREMONY IN PASADENA CALIFORNIA, BILLBOARD'S AWARD FOR THE BEST GROUP PERFORMANCE VIDEO GOES TO ZZ FOR "GIMME ALL YOUR LOVIN'."
WE'RE GETTIN' SO MUCH RECOGNITION ALL OF A SUDDEN, I'M AFRAID IT MIGHT GO TO MY HEAD!
THAT'S OK. ALL THE FERTILIZER THEY'RE HEAPIN' ON US'LL HELP OUR BEARDS GROW FASTER!
I READ WHERE SOMEONE SAID WE'VE SOLD MORE RECORDS FOR WARNER BROTHERS THAN ANY OF THEIR OTHER ACTS, INCLUDING ROD STEWART AND CHRISTOPHER CROSS.
THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE FLATTERING?!
SURE IT IS! WE'RE ROCKIN' ROYALTY NOW, INSTEAD OF A BUNCHA TEXAS DIRT BAGS! PLATINUM IN THE U.S., AUSTRALIA AND ENGLAND, DOUBLE PLATINUM IN IRELAND, SEPTUPLE PLATINUM IN CANADA, WORLDWIDE SALES OF EIGHT MILLION RECORDS...
I WONDER IF I SHOULD TAKE THOSE GREENBACKS OUTTA MY MATTRESS AND PUT 'EM IN A BANK?

AS SPOKESMAN FOR THE BAND, BILLY DISPENSES HOMILIES AND SOUND BITES TO THE REPORTERS WHO NOW FLOCK AROUND THE TOPSTERS.
I THINK THE VIDEOS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT PART IN "ELIMINATOR"'S SUCCESS.
IT GAVE AMERICA A CHANCE TO SEE HOW GOOD-LOOKIN' WE ARE!
ACTUALLY, WE'RE HARDLY IN THEM. EVERYONE LOOKS AT THE PURTY GIRLS AND FLASHY CARS. THAT'S A FORMULA THAT'S WORKED IN TV AND MOVIES FOR A LONG, LONG TIME!
THE ELIMINATOR TOUR IS SOLD OUT WORLDWIDE. THE STAGE SHOW FEATURES LASERS, SMOKE, FLASHPOTS, WIRELESS GUITARS AND A 12 FOOT BY 12 FOOT DRUM RISER. THE ALBUM IS MOVING 100,000 COPIES A WEEK!
"YOU GOT ME UNDER PRESSURE..."
THE NEXT SINGLE OUT IS "TV DINNERS," AND THE ACCOMPANYING VIDEO IS A STOP-MOTION TOUR-DE-FORCE, A VISUAL RIVAL TO THE DYNAMIC CLAYMATION DANCING RAISINS.
HEY, I KNOW THEY MADE THIS ONE WITHOUT MUCH INPUT FROM US, BUT I WASN'T EXPECTING IT TO LOOK LIKE ONE OF THOSE OLD GUMBY FILMS! THIS IS COOL!
YEAH, IT IS A BLAST!
THE "LEGS" VIDEO HELPS TO PROPEL THAT SINGLE UP TO #8 IN JULY 1984.
"SHE'S GOT LEGS, SHE KNOWS HOW TO USE THEM.
SHE NEVER BEGS..."
NOT EVERY RIDE BRINGS THEM TO A PEAK, HOWEVER, AS DUSTY JOINS FRANK IN DIVORCEDOM.
ock
tar
Nedd

1984 IS NOT ONLY THE YEAR THAT ZZ TOP GETS NOMINATED FOR A GRAMMY. IT'S ALSO THE YEAR IN WHICH THEY GET NOMINATED, EN MASSE, FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES! AS THE GROUP INCREDULOUSLY WATCHES FATHER GUIDO SARDUCCI ON SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE, FROM THEIR HOTEL ROOM IN ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO...
AND WHAT DO YOU THINK, FATHER?
WELL, I THINKA THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITHA JESSE JACKSON, BUT I'D LIKE TO TOSS INTO THE RINGA MY OWN PERSONAL CHOICE FOR THE PRESIDENT OFA THESA UNITED STATES...
HOWSA 'BOUTA ZZ TOP!!
YYAAY!!
IF YOU WANNA VOTE FOR ZZ, CALL THIS PHONE NUMBER TO CASTA YOUR VOTE...
SECOND RUNNER-UP, JESSE JACKSON, GETS 67,000 CALL-IN VOTES, WHILE OUR TOPSTERS RECEIVE 131,000, WINNING BY A ROCKING LANDSLIDE!
MAN, WE COULD GIVE OUT ZZ KEYCHAINS TO POTENTIAL VOTERS!
OR GIVE FAKE BEARDS TO BABIES!
OUR CAMPAIGN PROMISE'LL BE "A HOT GUITAR IN EVERY POT!" HA!
THIS HAS BEEN A HELLUVA YEAR. EVEN IN ENGLAND, WHERE YA THINK THEY'D HATE HOMEGROWN MUSIC LIKE OURS, THE RE-ISSUE OF "GIMME ALL YOUR LOVIN'" IS AT NUMBER TEN! "ELIMINATOR" HAS BEEN OUR "TAPESTRY." THE ONLY THING I WORRY ABOUT NOW IS HOW WE'RE GONNA FOLLOW IT UP!
REFUSING TO BE INTIMIDATED BY THE ALBUM'S RUNAWAY TRAIL-BLAZING, THEY ENTHUSIASTICALLY RE-ENTER THE STUDIO IN DECEMBER 1984 TO BEGIN WORK ON THEIR TENTH LP, "AFTERBURNER."
RECORDING STUDIO
HOWEVER, IN JANUARY 1985, AN EXPLOSIVE AND POTENTIALLY TRAGIC OCCURENCE HALTS PRODUCTION ON THE NEW ALBUM!

I'VE GOT A MAJOR STOMACH WOUND OVER HERE!
emerge
dial 9-1
GET ME A CARDIAC UNIT AND PREP THE E.R. FOR IMMEDIATE SURGERY!
CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED, MR...?
HILL...DUSTY HILL. I DUNNO, DOC. I...I WAS PUTTIN' UP A NEW GUN RACK... GETTIN' OUT ALL THE GATS, AN' CHECKIN' 'EM ALL.
I WASN'T PAYIN' MUCH ATTENTION, I GUESS... THIS ONE JUST WENT OFF...
DUSTY IS RUSHED IN FOR IMMEDIATE SURGERY.
WELL, IT WAS TOUCH AND GO FOR AWHILE.
TAKE IT EASY?!
HE LOST A LOT OF BLOOD, BUT HE SHOULD RECOVER IF HE TAKES IT EASY FOR AWHILE.
YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW WHO THIS IS, DO YOU DOCTOR?
THE OTHER TWO ZZs MAKE DUSTY'S REST AND REHABILITATION EASIER BY EXAMPLE.
WHEN THEY SAID THEY WAS GONNA SHAVE ME, I JUST ABOUT JUMPED OUTTA HERE! BUT THEN I FOUND OUT THEY DIDN'T MEAN MY BEARD...
WELL, YOU'LL BE HAPPY TO KNOW, BUDDY, THAT I'VE REALLY BEEN THINKING ABOUT MORTALITY AND ALL THAT, 'CAUSA WHAT HAPPENED. I'M QUITTING BOOZE AND DRUGS FOR GOOD. I EVEN VOLUNTEERED TO WORK WITH A REHABILITATION CENTER IN HOUSTON!
YEAH, HE'S PLAYIN' "BIG BROTHER," SUPPORTIN' THAT CARRIE HAMILTON GAL, CAROL BURNETT'S DAUGHTER. I'M RIGHT PROUD OF FRANK FOR GETTIN' STRAIGHT... NOW YOU JUST GOTTA GET THAT STOMACH OF YOURS BACK IN WORKIN' ORDER,--
--SO'S WE CAN ALL GO ON A NICE, LONG FISHIN' TRIP!
AND FISHING IS JUST WHAT THEY DO. DUSTY EVENTUALLY MAKES A FULL RECOVERY AND SOON THEY'RE NEARLY READY TO RETURN TO RECORDING.
WELL, I'M UP FOR IT, AS LONG AS I CAN SIT DOWN ONCE IN AWHILE,--
--AND AS LONG AS YOU DON'T EXPECT ME TO PLAY ANY HEAVY METAL!
HEY, I'VE ALWAYS SAID WE ONLY PLAY TO THREE BEATS... THE SHUFFLE, THE CUT SHUFFLE AND THE MONKEY BEAT.
YOU'RE THE GUITARIST FOR ZZ TOP, AREN'T YOU? I JUST LOOOOVE YOUR BEARD!
WELL, HONEY, I'D LOVE TO SHOW YOU THE REST OF IT SOMETIME!

IN AUGUST 1985, THEY'RE HARD AT WORK ON "AFTERBURNER."
WE SURE ARE LAYIN' IN HEAVY WITH ALL THE GUITAR EFFECTS AND SYNTHESIZERS AGAIN.
IS THIS REALLY THE BEST IDEA?
I KNOW "ELIMINATOR" WORKED, BUT ALL THE ELECTRONICS MAKE IT A LOT HARDER TO PLAY THIS STUFF LIVE.
IT'S STILL THE RUFF'N' GRUFF ZZ TOP SOUND, EVEN IF IT DOES PLAY THROUGH AN OCCASIONAL SEQUENCER.
WE'RE NOT GOIN' NEW WAVE OR PUTTIN' IN ANY ORCHESTRAS. IT'S STILL THE THREE OF US JUST GETTIN' DOWN AND BOOGIEIN' OUR BUTTS OFF!
AND, IF WE COULD PLAY THE LAST ALBUM LIVE, THIS ONE'LL BE A CAKEWALK, TOO!
HAS WARNER PICKED A SINGLE FROM THE SONGS WE'VE GIVEN 'EM SO FAR?
NAW, NOT REALLY. BUT BILL HAM SAYS THAT VIDEO DIRECTOR FRIEND OF HIS, STEVE BARRON, REALLY LIKES "SLEEPING BAG" AND WANTS TO SHOOT IT!
IF IT GOES LIKE THE OTHERS, WE'LL BE ABLE TO DO OUR PARTS IN AN AFTERNOON AND THEN STEP BACK AND LET THE "VIDEO ARTISTES" DO THEIR OWN THING!
IF MTV PUTS IT IN ROTATION AS HEAVY AS OUR LAST CLIPS, IT OUGHTTA HELP SELL ANOTHER HALF MILLION COPIES WHILE WE JUST SIT BACK AND COUNT THE CASH.
THEN YOU CAN GET BACK TO RACIN' EVERY CAMARO YOU SEE ON THE STREET, BILLY, ...AND FRANK CAN PRACTICE SOME GOLF!
DON'T I WISH! WE'VE ALREADY GOT TOUR DATES STARTING IN DECEMBER!
IN OCTOBER 1985, THE "SLEEPING BAG" SINGLE HITS #8 AND, UPON ITS RELEASE, THE "AFTER-BURNER" ALBUM SCALES UP TO #4 IN AMERICA AND, INCREDIBLY, #2 IN BRITAIN!
HOT DAMN, WE DID IT AGAIN! EVEN IN ENGLAND! MAYBE NOW KATE BUSH WILL TAKE THAT LOOOONG LIMO RIDE WITH ME THAT I KEEP OFFERIN' HER!
THAT'S ONE JUICY FRUIT I'M DYIN' TO PEEL!

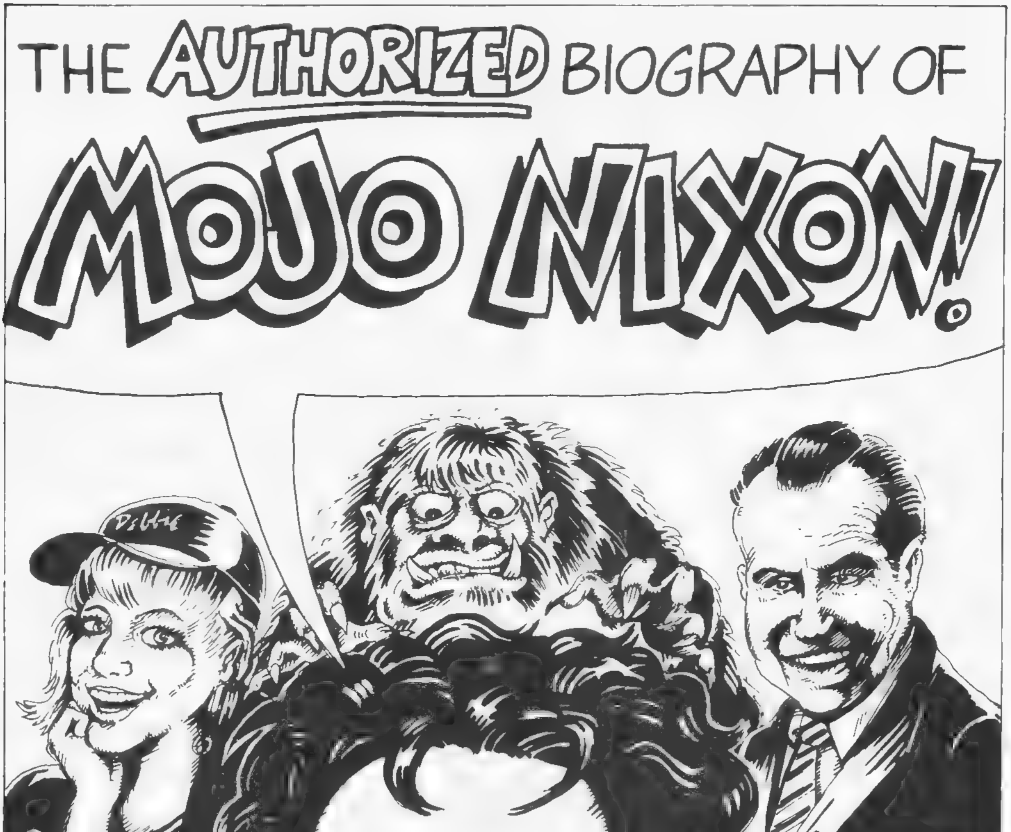
THE NON-STOP FUN OF THE ROAD RESUMES IN FORCE. ON A PLANE TO TUSCON...
HEY, WHAT'S A BOX OF MILK BONE DOG BISCUITS DOIN' WITH MY CHEEZ-WHIZ?!
DON'T THROW THEM AWAY, DUSTY. WE MAY NEED THEM IF YOU BRING ANY OF YOUR GIRLFRIENDS ALONG!
HEY, BILLY, I AIN'T NEVER SEEN YOU WITH NO PEDIGREES!
THAT'S CAUSE THEY'RE ALL THOROUGHBREDS!
WELL, THEY'RE ALL REGISTERED, ANYWAY.
I CHECKED THEIR COLLARS!
THE "AFTERBURNER" TOUR OPENS IN TORONTO ON DECEMBER 3RD, AS THE BAND CUTS A 212-DATE SWATHE ACROSS THE CIVILIZED (AND NOT SO CIVILIZED) WORLD. MANY ATTENDEES SHOW THEIR DEDICATION AND DEVOTION BY SPORTING FULL ZZ REGALIA.
EACH SUCCESSFUL SINGLE PILES ON TOP OF THE OTHER. IN MARCH 1986, "STAGES" SOARS TO #21 (BOOSTED BY THE SPACE-AGE VIDEO); IN JUNE, THE BALLAD "ROUGH BOYS" FIGHTS ITS WAY TO #22, AND IN SEPTEMBER "VELCRO FLY" ZIPS UP TO #35.

IN THE FALL, AFTER A HELLRAISING GAMBLING JUNKET TO LAS VEGAS (DUSTY CLEANS UP, FOR ONCE), THEY MAKE A RARE TV APPEARANCE ON JOHNNY CARSON'S "TONIGHT SHOW."
AS JOHNNY'S BAND-LEADER, DOC, WAILS ALONG IN HIS ZZ BEARD, BILLY SINGS "SHARP DRESSED MAN" (AFTER A FEW RUSTY SCREW-UPS),--
--AND DUSTY CROAKS OUT "TUSH" (WHILE BILLY WORKS UP A HEAD OF STEAM WITH WITH HIS SKANKY SLIDE GUITAR).
ZZ DRAMATICALLY DISAPPEARS IN A PUFF OF SMOKE, AS THE AUDIENCE GOES HOG-WILD. JOHNNY CAPS OFF THE SURPRISE SET WITH HIS OWN VISUAL SALUTE.
BOY, WASN'T THAT GREAT? IMAGINE HOW CONFUSED THE GUY OUT THERE WHO JUST TUNED INTO THIS CHANNEL MUST BE!
IN SEPTEMBER, "AFTERBURNER" HAS GONE MULTI-PLATINUM, WITH THREE MILLION COPIES SOLD IN THE U.S. THEY BEGIN A 29-DATE EUROPEAN TOUR IN STOCKHOLM SWEDEN.
NOW THESE ARE SOME HEALTHY HONEYS!
I WONDER IF ANY OF 'EM WANNA RIDE THE OLD CLYDESDALE WITH ME!
YOU MEAN, STRADDLE THE OLD SHETLAND PONY, DON'T YOU BILLY?
NAW,--
--WITH HIS SPOTTED OLD BUTT, IT'S MORE LIKE AN APPALOOSA!
THE EUROPEAN LEG ENDS IN OCTOBER WITH FOUR SOLD-OUT HOE-DOWNS AT LONDON'S WEMBLEY ARENA.
HEY, CAN WE GET IT A LITTLE LOUDER?!
CRANK UP THE SOUND PAST "PATENT PENDING," MAN! MAXIMUM OUTPUT!

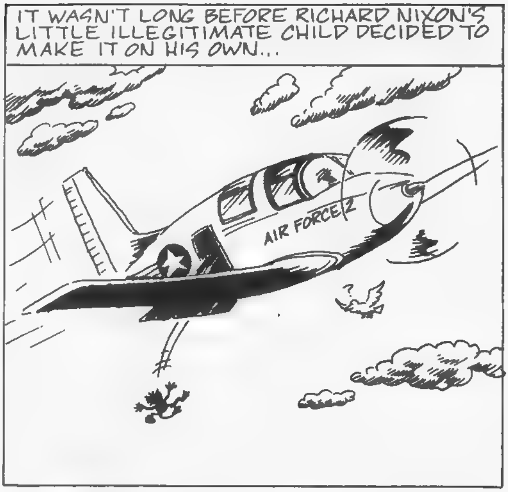
IN JANUARY 1987, POLSTAR NAMES ZZ THE TOP CONCERT DRAW OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR.
THE MAMMOTH WORLD TOUR FINALLY WRAPS UP ON MARCH 21ST, IN HONOLULU, AS THE BAND BLOWS FORTY POUNDS OF PSYCHEDELIC CONFETTI INTO THEIR APPRECIATIVE AUDIENCE.
COMING OFF THE ROAD, BILLY IS LIVING IN A SPARSELY FURNISHED, HALF-MILLION DOLLAR HOUSTON TOWNHOUSE
WELL, DARLIN', THIS IS THE OLD HOMESTEAD. HOW DO YA LIKE IT, MISTY?
WELL, UH IT'S... KINA EMPTY!
I MEAN, THERE'S NO FURNITURE EXCEPT A COUCH AND THAT JUKEBOX OVER THERE.
YEAH, I'M NOT HERE MUCH TO TAKE CARE OF NICETIES LIKE INTERIOR DECORATIN'.
THE JUKEBOX HAS GOT LOTSA GEORGE JONES, THOUGH! I MIGHT EVEN GET A BED, SOON!
NO BED?! WHERE DO YOU SLEEP?
WAAL . MORE OFTEN THAN NOT I STAY AT A HOTEL UP THE STREET. THEY'VE GOT ROOM SERVICE AND MINTS ON THE PILLOWS, AN' I ALWAYS GET CLEAN SHEETS!
THE MAID BRAIDS MY HAIR AND COMBS MY BEARD FOR ME, TOO!
DO YOU EVER THINK OF SHAVING **OFF** THE BEARD? I'LL BET YOU'RE A PRETTY HANDSOME GUY UNDER THERE!
THE BEARDS HAVE A GREAT ADVANTAGE. WHEN WE'RE OLD AND READY TO BE CARRIED AWAY IN OUR ROCKING CHAIRS, PEOPLE WILL SAY, "I SAW YOU GUYS 20 YEARS AGO AND YOU LOOK JUST THE SAME TODAY!"
FORTUNATELY, A NEW IMAGE IS JUST A RAZORBLADE AWAY, IF I WANT ONE!
NOW. THEN, YOU DON'T REALLY WANT A NEW IMAGE, DO YOU? I LIKE YOUR OLD ONE JUST FINE, ESPECIALLY WHAT I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOUR "TUBESNAKE BOOGIE."
I'D BETTER NOT SPOIL MY REP BY TELLING THIS HOT LITTLE TAMALE THAT I'M A RESPECTED MEMBER OF THE PATRON'S COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSTON MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART.
SHE'S LOOKIN' FER **SLEAZE**, AND I AIMS TO PLEASE!

IN THE AFTERGLOW OF "AFTERBURNER," THE GROUP ONCE AGAIN OPTS FOR THE UNEXPECTED.
AT THIS STAGE IN OUR CAREER, WE FEEL IT INCUMBENT UPON US, IN ORDER TO RECHARGE OUR CREATIVE BATTERIES, TO TAKE A BRIEF VACATION FROM TOURING AND RECORDING... AGAIN. HEY, WE NEED A BREAK, PEOPLES!
YEAH, WE WEREN'T WHISTLIN' DIXIE WHEN WE SANG ABOUT BEIN' "UNDER PRESSURE!"
DUSTY TAKES ADVANTAGE OF HIS TIME OFF BY MARRYING HIS NEWEST WIFE, DEBBIE, AND THEY SOON BEGIN OPERATIONS SELLING DESIGNER SPORTWEAR IN A HOUSTON MALL.
OPEN
BILLY TAKES A RAMBLING, RESPECTFUL AND REFLECTIVE TOUR OF AMERICA, INCLUDING THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA, HOME OF THE BLUES.
MAN, THIS IS A REAL PIECE OF AMERICANA THE BOYHOOD HOME OF THE LEGENDARY MUDDY WATERS!
THIS IS A SHRINE!
THIS HERE CEDAR PLANK... I'M GONNA TAKE IT HOME, SAND IT DOWN AND BUILD A GUITAR OUTTA IT!
A MAGIC GUITAR! I'LL CALL IT "MUDDYWOOD," YEAH!
IN OCTOBER 1987, BILLY REACHES FOR THE STARS WITH HIS LATEST PRONOUNCEMENT TO THE PRESS.
AS OF NOW, ZZ TOP HAS MADE ADVANCE BOOKING FOR THE FIRST-EVER PASSENGER FLIGHT TO THE MOON! WE'RE GONNA BE SPACE-TRUCKIN'!
UH, IS THIS A "PRIVATE" COMPANY OFFERING THIS TRIP? OR HAVE YOU ARRANGED IT THROUGH NASA?
WELL, I'VE ALREADY BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THOSE GOOD OL' EGGHEAD BOYS AT NASA. I EVEN OFFERED TO HAVE ZZ TOP PLAY THE SPACE SHUTTLE! HERE'S THE SONG LIST I SUGGESTED... "HOW HIGH THE MOON," "FLY ME TO THE MOON," "MOON RIVER"...
MR. GIBBONS, I, UM, GET THE FEELING YOU'RE TUGGING ON MY LEG!
HEY, BOY, I AIN'T NO QUEER LEG-TUGGER!
DON'T MIND BILLY... HE'S ALWAYS BEEN THREE OR FOUR POUNDS SHY OF A FULL LOAD.
PRESS

LET'S TALK ABOUT IMAGE.
DO YOU EVER GET THE FEELING THAT ZZ TOP WOULD BE THE BIGGEST BAND IN THE WORLD IF YOU GUYS LOOKED LIKE, OH, PAUL McCARTNEY?
YOU'RE RIGHT! I HAPPEN TO LOOK LIKE ROD STEWART UNDER THIS!
NAW, WE JUST KEEP DOIN' OUR OWN THING. WE'VE GOT OUR OWN AGENDA, LIKE THE BENEFITS WE DID FOR THE DELTA BLUES MUSEUM.
WE DON'T GO OUT OF OUR WAY TO BE POP OR COMMERCIAL.
AS THE NEW DECADE DAWNS, ZZ IS BACK IN MEMPHIS, READY AND RARIN' TO ROLL SOME MAGNETIC TAPE.
WELL, ARE WE ALL READY TO HIT THE STUDIO AGAIN?
YEAH, I GUESS. HEY, WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT MAYBE HAVING A THEME TO THIS ALBUM? LIKE "EARTH DAY," OR ECOLOGY OR SOMETHING KINDA "WORLD CONSCIOUS" LIKE THAT. MAYBE DONATE SOME OF THE ROYALTIES TO "ECO", THE EARTH COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE.
I DO KINDA REGRET MISSING "LIVE AID." MAYBE WE COULD DO SOME SONGS LIKE "RECYCLE YOUR GARBAGE."
SURE, I MENTIONED "RECYCLER" TO BILL AS A POSSIBLE TITLE, BUT THAT'S NOT THE KIND OF RECYCLIN' I HAD IN MIND! I MEAN, SURE WE'RE INTO THAT... I SEPARATE MY TRASH. HELL, DUSTY EVEN CHEWS AND DIGESTS HIS EVIAN BOTTLES WHEN HE'S DONE WITH 'EM
BUT THAT'S NOT THE POINT. WHAT WE'RE RECYCLING HERE IS US!
AS THE WINTER OF '90 ROLLS AROUND, ZZ IS BACK ON THE CONCERT TRAIL, BEGINNING IN OCTOBER AT A COTTON BOWL BENEFIT FOR THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS, SUPPORTING THEIR BRAND NEW "RECYCLER" ALBUM. THE INITIAL STRING OF DATES FEATURES BLIND STRING-SMOKER JEFF HEALEY AS THEIR BACKUP.
HEY JEFF. HEH HEH... YER FLY IS DOWN AGAIN!
YOU'RE A FUNNY GUY, BILLY. JUST KEEP IT UP.
AS WARNER RELEASES THE 60-SONG CD COLLECTION, THE ZZ TOP SIX-PACK, THE GROUP UNVEILS THEIR OWN HEADY NEW CONCOCTION... THE 1948 CADILLAC KNOWN LOVINGLY AS "CADZILLA."
YEP, THAT LITTLE OL' BAND FROM TEXAS IS BACK WITH A VENGEANCE, AS 1991 OPENS WITH HEAPS OF TUMULTUOUS PRAISE AND ADULATION FOR THE ONE, THE ONLY, THE INCOMPARABLE ZZ TOP!
WE'LL BE COMIN' TO YOUR TOWN SOON! KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR CADZILLA! WE'RE HOT, WE'RE SMOKIN' AND WE'RE READY TO ROCK AND ROLL ALL OVER YOU!
DEDICATED TO "TROLL"
THE END


THE AUTHORIZED BIOGRAPHY OF
MOJO NIXON!
STORY: TODD LOREN WITH ASSISTANCE FROM AN INEBRIATED MOJO NIXON
ART BY: Scott Jackson

YES! THIS IS THE ***AUTHORIZED*** BIOGRAPHY OF MOJO NIXON! THAT MEANS EVERY WORD IS TRUE, BECAUSE MOJO HAS ***AUTHORIZED*** IT HIMSELF. ACTUALLY, HIS MANAGER ACCEPTED A LARGE PAYOFF TO AGREE TO THIS. MOJO KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT IT! HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!



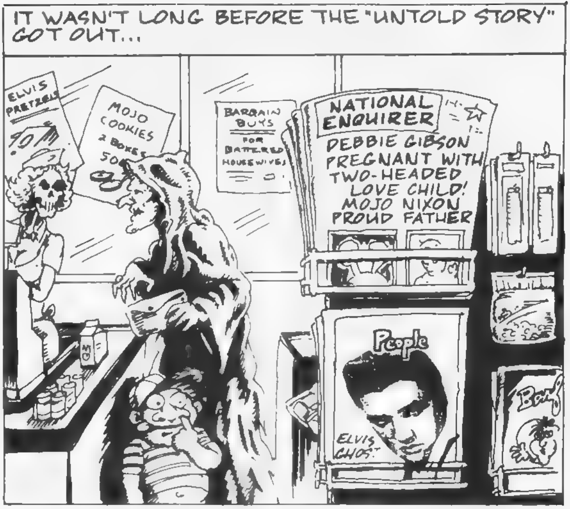
100% AUTHORIZED!

THIS IS NO BULL! WE SAY IT'S TRUE, SO IT'S FUCKIN' **TRUE!**

THIS IS A **FULLY AUTHORIZED, ACCREDITTED & OFFICIAL PIECE O' SHIT, HYAR!** THIS AIN'T NO DAMN BOOTLEG BIOGRAPHY!

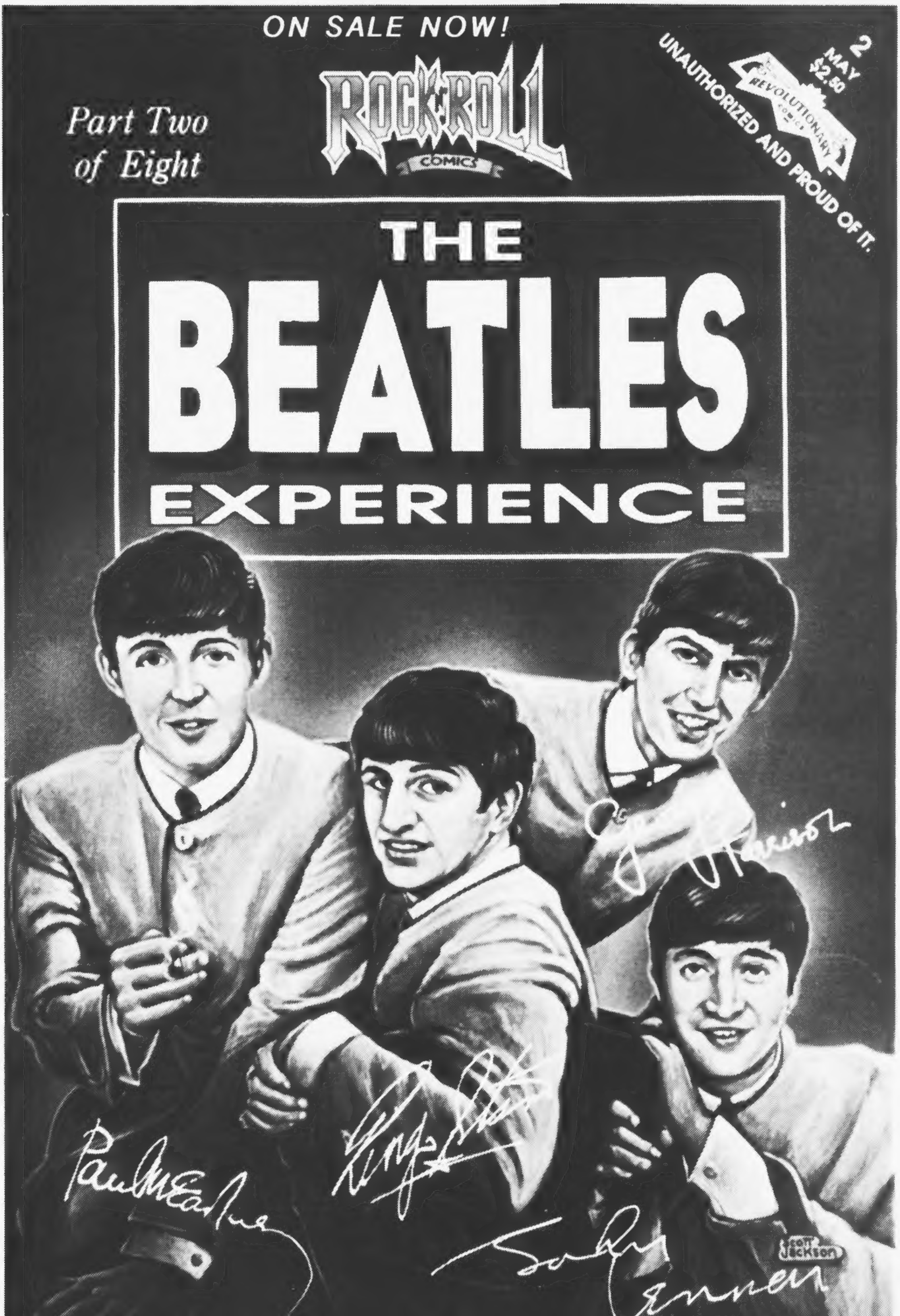
YES!
THIS IS THE OFFICIALLY LICENSED, ***100% AUTHORIZED*** TRUE STORY OF THE LEGENDARY ***MOJO NIXON!*** ANY OTHER "BOOTLEG" VERSIONS MUST BE AVOIDED AT ALL COSTS! IF YOU FIND ANY BOOTLEG MOJO NIXON BIOGRAPHIES AT ANY STORE, **CALL US IMMEDIATELY**, AND WE WILL SEND OVER A HERD OF LAWYERS TO CHARGE THEM BY THE MINUTE!

MY POPULARITY WAS PHENOMENAL! I SOLD MORE TAPES IN ONE DAY THAN THE BEATLES SOLD IN THEIR ENTIRE CAREER!* I EVEN OUT-SOLD SLIM WHITMAN, BOXCAR WILLIE, ZAMFIR, AND DON HENLEY*...
MADAGASCAR HOT 100
MOJO # ONE
RWANDA TOP 40 HOT MOJO BIG #1
TONGA TOP 10 MOJO AT TOP
*IN MADAGASCAR, RWANDA, AND THE TONGA ISLANDS.
SOON I WAS WELL ON MY WAY TO BECOMING A MAJOR STAR! I HAD A FLING WITH DEBBIE GIBSON...
LOVE CONNECTION
AND, DEBBIE, WHO DID YOU CHOOSE FOR YOUR DATE?
I CHOSE MOJO.
WHAT HAPPENED AFTER DINNER, DEBBIE?
OH, HE FUCKED ME RAGGED, CHUCK!
WELL, IT SOUNDS LIKE WE MADE A LOVE CONNECTION! MOJO, WHY DON'T YOU COME ON OUT?
WHY, HE'S WITH...
MARTHA QUINN!
MOJO, HAVE YOU BEEN STUFFIN' MARTHA'S MUFFIN?
I HAD TO DO IT TO GET ON MTV!
WELL, I WAS GOING TO TELL YOU LATER, BUT...
WHAT?



THIS IS THE ONE & ONLY GOSH-AWFUL HONEST ACCOUNT OF THE TRUE LIFE STORY OF MOJO NIXON! IT IS THE ONLY AUTHORIZED BIOGRAPHY (UNLESS SOMEONE CAN BRIBE HIS MANAGER ENOUGH) WHICH IS AVAILABLE, AND ANY ONE CAUGHT SELLING DIRTY, FILTHY, STINKING DISGUSTING UNAUTHORIZED BIOGRAPHICAL MATERIAL WILL BE FORCED TO LISTEN TO DON HENLEY FOR A WEEK!

I SOON SET OUT TO UNDERTAKE MY OWN SECRET AGENDA!
UH, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, MR. SPEAKER, YER ALL FIRED! GET THE FUCK OUT!
WE'RE CLEANING OUT THIS PLACE AN' STARTIN' ALL OVER AGAIN!
CONGRESS
FIRST OF ALL, DRUGS ARE NOW DECLARED LEGAL. IF YOU WANNA GET HIGH, NOW YOU WON'T HAVE TO ROB ME TO DO IT. THAT ELIMINATES THE NEED FOR THE C.I.A. SO ALL YOU C.I.A. COONS, GO LOOK FOR WORK AT McDONALD'S. ALSO, I DON'T THINK THE FOUNDING FATHERS EVER MEANT FOR TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION WHICH IS WHAT THIS INCOME TAX THING IS ALL ABOUT, SO I DON'T THINK WE NEED THE I.R.S. ANYMORE. THAT MEANS ALL YOU ACCOUNTANTS CAN GO GET JOBS AT 7-11.
NOW, AS FOR ALL YOU LAWYERS OUT THERE, I'M GONNA ENACT A NEW LAW THAT MAKES PLAINTIFFS LIABLE FOR LEGAL FEES AND PUNITIVE DAMAGES IF THEY SUE SOMEONE AND LOSE. THAT OUGHT TO CUT DOWN ON YOUR WORKLOAD A BIT.
AND STARTING IMMEDIATELY, THE PLAYING OF MUZAK AT A PUBLIC PLACE IS NOW A FELONY.
HEY! HEY, YOU CAN'T DO THAT!
WHY DIDN'T YOU ASK MY ADVICE, SON? I CAN TEACH YOU HOW TO DEFRAUD THE COUNTRY AND THEN MAKE A COMFY LIVING WRITING ABOUT IT!
I'M NOT HERE FOR THAT SHIT! I'M HERE TO PREACH THE PSYCHOTIC GONZO BLUES TO THE WORLD!
YEEOW!
WHUMP
CERTIFIED AUTHENTIC
AUTHORIZED BIOGRAPHY
IT'S REAL!
FOR A SWORN STATEMENT FROM MOJO NIXON THAT THIS IS IN FACT AN ACTUAL AUTHORIZED BIOGRAPHY, WRITE TO: MOJO WORLD EMPIRE, P.O. BOX 20839, TOMPKINS SQ. STATION, N.Y., N.Y. 10009.
THE END!


ON SALE NOW!
ROCK 'N' ROLL COMICS
Part Two of Eight
2 MAY $2.50
REVOLUTIONARY COMICS
UNAUTHORIZED AND PROUD OF IT.
THE BEATLES EXPERIENCE
SCOTT JACKSON

(Continued from inside front cover)

Your fans have a right to know! Why won't you let Rock N' Roll Comics write about you? Do you have something to hide? Are you afraid of the truth? Or are you just plain wimps, afraid to stand up and say "no!"? I really think your fans have a right to know. So, here's the addresses, where you can reach these bands, and if you're a fan, and you want to know why they're such wimps, ask them yourself!

JUDAS PRIEST c/o Bill Curbishly , Derek Simon
157 West 57th St. Suite 600 , New York, NY 10019
212-265-1410

BON JOVI c/o Gelfand, Rennert and Feldman
6 E. 43rd St., New York, NY 10017 Attn.: Mario Testani
212-682-0234

IRON MAIDEN c/o Sony/ CBS/ Epic, attn.: Julie Farman
1801 Century Park West, Los Angeles, CA 90067
213-556-4700

SLAUGHTER c/o Chrysalis
645 Madison Ave.,New York, NY 10022
212-326-2300

SKID ROW, WINGER,INXS: Atlantic Records
9229 Sunset #710 ,Los Angeles, CA 90069
213-205-7450

Or you might want to call Great Southern themselves. Their toll-free number is 1-800-221-2771.

SOMEONE LIKES US!

According to Spike Steffenhagen, who was in contact with the management for Anthrax and Faith No More, they apparantly like the book we did about them! Now, the big question is: will they have the balls to actually say so in writing, and send a letter to this column?

LETTERS DEPT.:

Dear Mr. Loren,

I am responding to your letter of January 4, 1991 to Pete Townshend. In fact, my response is on behalf of all the members of The Who.

Let us first say that we are pleased at the enthusiastic and respectful manner in which you have presented our clients and the events in their career that were depicted in your comic book. What we have to say in the rest of this letter has nothing to do with our opinion of the quality of your work. As Who fans go, you deserve our appreciation--and you have it.

However, you are probably unaware that the right to depict the band and its members for commercial purposes (as you have done) is a very important and valuable right. In fact, over the years, the band has entered into various exlusive licensing arrangements with authorized publishers, merchandisers, etc. Therefore, while thanking you for your interest in the band, we must request that you discontinue publication of any comic book which uses the name, likeness or images and logos of The Who.

We have no intention of doing anything about the books you've already printed and distributed, but we must have your cooperation and assurance that there will be no further publication or distribution of those books or any others deriving their value and identity from The Who. We hope you understand our position and can assure us of your cooperation. Very truly yours,

Elliot L. Hoffman

Beldock, Levine & Hoffman, As Attorneys for The Who

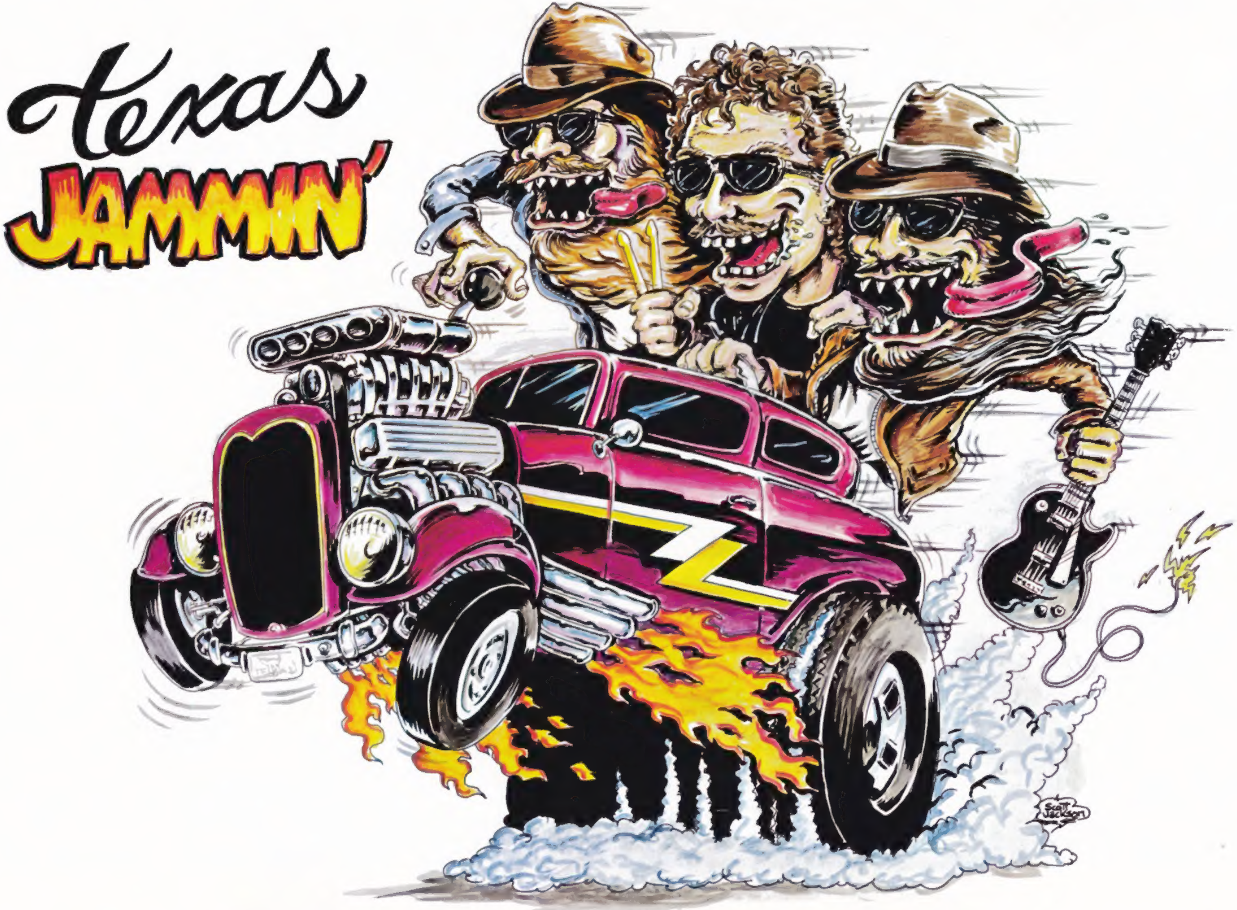
Mr Hoffman- As a high-priced New York attorney, YOU should be aware of the fact that while the Who may choose to charge exhorbitant fees for rights to officially santioned biographies, that does not prevent me from publishing my own unauthorized version! By the way, if Pete really feels that way, why doesn't he write instead of hiding behind his lawyer? I wrote to him, not you, Mr. Hoffman!

RIGHTS? WHAT RIGHTS?

Several months ago, we sent a letter to all of the major comic book publishers in America asking them if they thought they even *had* First Amendment rights. The totally unbelievable answer...next issue! Peace.

COMING UP...

#26-27- The Doors, #28-29- Ozzy Osbourne, The Beatles Experience #2 (of 8), The Pink Floyd Experience #1 (of 6), plus CLASSICS OF ROCK a graphic novel-type book with the comic bios of Led Zeppelin, Kiss , The Rolling Stones, and THE WHO!


Texas
JAMMIN'
Scott Jackson